

09/856302

JCTB Rec'd PCT/PTO 2 1 MAY 2001

PATENTS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Hennie WESSELING et al.

Box Non-fee Amendment

Serial No. (unknown)

GROUP

Filed herewith

Examiner

METHOD AND DEVICES FOR PRINTING A FRANKING MARK ON A DOCUMENT

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to the first Official Action and calculation of the filing fee, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 4-5, 7-9, 13-15 and 19-21 as follows:

--4. (Amended) A method according to Claim 2, characterised in that after the reading of the information carrier (18) by the printing device (20), use of the unique bit string for printing a further franking mark on a further document is rendered impossible by the printing device (20).--

--5. (Amended) A method according to Claim 2, characterised in that, after reading the information carrier (18), it is checked whether the value of a counter on the information carrier (18) lies within predefined limits, and, if this is the case, the value of the counter is adjusted after reading

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